

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-20 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

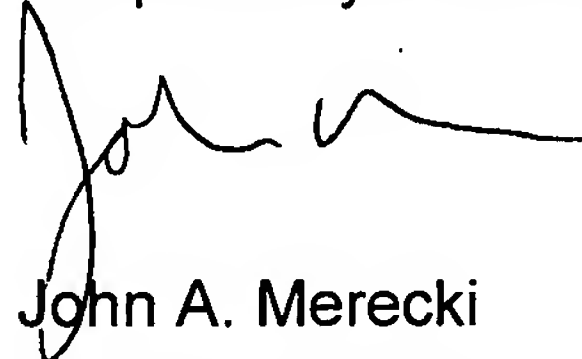
Figure 1 has been amended to include the legend "Prior Art." A replacement sheet is provided herewith.

Claims 3-6 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15-20 have been allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 7-9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Thompson (U.S. Patent 6,580,947). Claims 1, 2, 7-9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Pedrazzini et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0134281). These rejections are moot in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claims 1 and 8.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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